

32. — A method for testing a sample of biologic fluid, comprising the steps of:

— providing a container for holding the sample, said container having a chamber with a first wall and a transparent second wall, and a label attached to said container, said label containing information which is used in the performance of one or more tests;

5 — providing a reader module which receives said container, said reader module including a label reader for reading said label and a field illuminator for selectively illuminating one or more fields of the sample, each sample field having a known or ascertainable area;

— depositing said sample within said chamber, wherein said sample quiescently resides in said chamber thereafter;

10 — reading said label with said label reader, thereby communicating to said reader module from said container said information which is used in the performance of said one or more tests; and

— selectively imaging one or more of said sample fields using said field illuminator.

15 33. — A method according to claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

— providing a positioner within said reader module, said positioner being operable to selectively change the position of one of said chamber or said field illuminator relative to the other of said chamber or said field illuminator;

— selectively positioning said chamber relative to said field illuminator.

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34. — A method according to claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

— providing means for spatially locating said chamber relative to said field illuminator;

— positioning said field illuminator relative to said chamber using said spatially locating means.

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35. — A method according to claim 34, further providing the step of:

— providing a through-plane thickness or a volume of said sample field and a spatial location of said sample field as a part of said information used in the performance of said one or more tests.

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36. — A method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of: —

— providing a known concentration of a sensible colorant uniformly distributed within the sample, said sensible colorant having a known signal to concentration ratio;

— providing said concentration, said signal to concentration ratio, and a spatial location of said sample field as a part of said information used in the performance of said one or more tests;

— positioning said field illuminator to align with said sample field at said spatial location;

— imaging said sample field;

— determining a volume of said sample field using said information including said image of said sample field, said concentration, and said signal to concentration ratio.

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37. — A method according to claim 36, further comprising the steps of: —

— providing a reservoir attached to said container and a selectively operable valve functionally disposed between said reservoir and said chamber;

— depositing said sample within said reservoir prior to said one or more tests;

— initiating a test time period by selectively operating said valve to allow said sample to transfer from said reservoir to said chamber.

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38. A method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

— providing a sensible colorant uniformly distributed within the sample, said sensible colorant having a signal to concentration ratio;

5 — providing as a part of said information used in the performance of the one or more tests a first spatial location for locating a first sample field, a second spatial location for locating a second sample field, wherein said first and second fields have equal volumes, and a geometric characteristic having a displacement volume, said characteristic positioned within one of said first or second sample fields;

— positioning said field illuminator to align with said first spatial location;

10 — imaging said first sample field;

— positioning said field illuminator to align with said first second location;

— imaging said second sample field;

15 — determining said volume of one of said first or second sample fields using said images of said first and second sample fields, said displacement volume of said geometric feature, and said signal to concentration ratio.

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